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MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

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Good afternoon. I am here to testify in strong support of the creation of a Bradley Airport Development Zone, an economic initiative aimed at creating new jobs, attracting new capital to the region and increasing tax revenue to the state and municipalities from throughout the north central Connecticut area.

As many of you know, Bradley International Airport is Connecticut's flagship airport as well as the second largest airport in New England. Additionally, Bradley has established itself as an economic driver and is expected to contribute, on average, \$34 billion in output over the next twenty years. It is equally important to note that, over that same time period, it is anticipated that Bradley will generate \$11 billion in income for Connecticut residents and sustain nearly 140,000 jobs.

Bradley is uniquely positioned to serve as an economic development engine to our state. As many of you know, Connecticut has lost nearly 80,000 jobs during this economic recession. A more prosperous economy is driven, in great part, by the success of our business community and the Bradley International Airport Development Zone is an important solution to getting Connecticut back on track.

In regard to economic development, a Bradley Development Zone will place our state at an economic advantage with:

- The availability of competitively priced and easy to develop land. According to CRCOG, over 1,000 acres of underdeveloped land exist within the proposed zone. There are 2,000 acres of developable land in industrial zones within the four area towns as a whole.
- First-class existing corporate neighbors (Alstom Power, Aetna, Hamilton Sunstrand, Konica, Ahlstrom, NuFern Fiber, Walgreens, ING, and Westinghouse)
- Immediate access to Interstates 91 and 84 linking to Interstates 90 and 95.

- Bradley is congestion-free relative to Logan and JFK, and it rarely experiences weather-related service disruptions. These competitive advantages may give Bradley an edge competing for shippers of particularly time-sensitive goods.
- Bradley Airport is located just fifteen minutes north of downtown Hartford and twenty minutes south of Springfield, Massachusetts. Additionally, it is located in the heart of the Knowledge Corridor.
- Bradley is uniquely situated to benefit from a quality workforce located in Hartford and Western Massachusetts.
- The four BDL communities have streamlined approval processes have a very strong pro-business approach to their efforts in the region.
- Top quality infrastructure.
- More than 2,000 available hotel rooms and the availability of conference facilities.
- Exceptional quality of life.
- World-class educational and cultural opportunities.
- More than 100 million potential customers who are located within 500 miles of BDL and 1/3 of the US economy.

I urge this committee to move this effort forward this legislative session. Most importantly, this new zone would allow Connecticut to be competitive, create new jobs and bring in new capital to our state.

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